



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

Submitted via email: Sherry.DorseyWalker@delaware.gov
customerservice.dpr@delaware.gov

November 1, 2021

The Honorable Sherry Dorsey Walker
House Sunset Committee
Delaware General Assembly
411 Legislative Avenue
Dover, DE 19901

Danielle Inverso, President
Board of Speech Pathologists, Audiologists,
and Hearing Aid Dispensers
Cannon Building, Suite 203
861 Silver Lake Blvd.
Dover, DE 19904

RE: House Bill 208

Dear Representative Dorsey Walker and Dr. Inverso:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to support HB 208 with minor changes.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 218,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Over 530 ASHA members reside in Delaware.¹

ASHA supports the scope of practice for hearing aid dispensers, as written, that delineates which practices are appropriate by education and experience for hearing aid dispensers to perform. However, ASHA recommends two minor changes to HB 208:

- Amend line 122 to read: “has met current”
- Delete lines 214-217, which read: “An individual with a license from a state with less stringent requirements than those of this State may obtain a license through reciprocity if the individual can prove to the satisfaction of the Board that the individual has worked in another jurisdiction or jurisdictions in the field for which the individual is seeking a license in Delaware for a minimum of 5 years after licensure.” Although audiology and speech-language pathology licensure are generally the same among states, we include this recommendation because hearing aid dispenser requirements vary greatly.

Thank you for your consideration of ASHA's comments on the Board's proposed regulatory changes. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Susan Adams, ASHA's director of state legislative and regulatory affairs, at sadams@asha.org.

Sincerely,

A. Lynn Williams, PhD, CCC-SLP
2021 ASHA President

cc: Representative Madinah Wilson-Anton

¹ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2020). *Delaware* [Quick Facts]. <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/uploadedfiles/Delaware-State-Flyer.pdf>.